THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) A National Mission Mode Project on e-Governance in Municipalities is being formulated by the Ministry of Urban Development, covering 423 cities/towns having population of one lakh and above, for implementation during the period 2005-06 to 2009-10. The project would help achieve improved service delivery, decentralisation, better information management, and transparency, citizens' involvement in the Government, etc. Online payment of utility bills would be covered under this project. However, the details are yet to be finalized.

(c) As per entry 5 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, "Local Government, that is to say, the constitution and powers of municipal corporations, improvement trusts, district boards, mining settlement authorities and other local authorities for the purpose of local self government or village administration" is a State subject. Hence, action involves on the part of State Governments to take up suitable reforms to improve the overall culture and bring in transparency in locak-civic bodies. However, to help the urban local bodies (ULBs) function as self-sustaining units of grass-root democracy, this Ministry has been impressing upon the States to adopt provisions of Model Municipal Law, accrual-based double entry accounting system, property tax reforms, etc. New schemes, *viz.* Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) have also been launched by this Ministry under which financial assistance would be provided to States for development of urban infrastructure, subject to implementation of identified urban reforms. These reforms would improve overall culture and bring transparency in local-civic bodies.

Funds for Mega City Project in A.P.

2080. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh was received by his Ministry for providing additional funds during the year 2004-05 under mega city project for Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the date of its receipt; and

(c) the action his Ministry has taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. A request was received from Government of Andhra Pradesh for providing funds for Krishna Drinking Water Supply Scheme.

(b) The letter was received on 22.12.2004.

(c) It has been proposed to include Krishna Drinking water Supply Scheme under the 'Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Infrastructure Development in Mega Cities' for Central assistance to the extent admissible under the guidelines of the scheme. An amount of Rs. 59.41 crore was released during 2004-05. Further, an amount of Rs. 14.65 crore has been released during 2005-06 so far. Further assistance shall be released once the amount released so far has been spent.

Reduction in stamp duty and Repeal Land Ceiling Act

†2081. SHRI AJAY MAROO:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is considering any proposal in which the States Government would be asked to reduce the stamp duty to 5 per cent, to repeal the Urban Land Ceiling Act and to amend the Rent Control Act;

(b) the number of the States at present where stamp duty is more than 5 per cent, the details thereof;

(c) the States which have repealed the Land Ceiling Act; and

(d) the response of the other states in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) This Ministry has recently launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) whereby financial assistance would be provided to the States/UTs for infrastructural development, subject to implementation of identified reforms. Reduction of stamp duty to 5 per cent, abolition of Urban Land Ceiling Act and amendment in Rent Control Acts are, *inter-alia*, the identified reforms to be implemented during the Mission period, *viz.* seven years.

(b) The information is being collected.

(c) The Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Repeal Act, 1999 was initially applicable to the States of Haryana and Punjab and the then Union Territory of Delhi, Union Territories of Pondicherry and Chandigarh. The said Repeal

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.